



CPEC

Draft Minutes, Government Relations Committee Meeting, May 19, 2009

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Call to Order

Committee Chair Howard Welinsky called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Executive Secretary Anna Gomez called the roll.

Present: Committee Chair Welinsky, Commissioners Geraty, Lopez, Nickel, and Singh, and ex officio member, Commission Chair Perez. A quorum was established.

Legislative Update

Legislative Director Julia Blair presented the staff draft of the *Legislative Update* with recommended positions on nine bills with substantial changes or with changes in the staff-recommended positions since the March 10, 2009 Commission meeting.

Committee Chair Welinsky called for unanimous consent on bills with a staff-recommended Watch position in this report. Other motions were as follows:

SB 271 – Commission Chair Perez moved, Commissioner Lopez seconded, to change the position of Watch to Support. The motion carried unanimously.

AB 386 – Commissioner Singh moved, Commissioner Lopez seconded, to adopt a position of Support. The motion carried unanimously.

AB 500 – Ms. Blair suggested that staff work with Assemblymember Conway as this bill progresses. Committee Chair Welinsky asked about the process for systems to submit facility proposals for CPEC review. He asked how the review process affects the Commission's position on AB 500. Ms. Blair confirmed that the Commission does not adopt positions on legislation that permits a system to study the feasibility of establishing new programs or campuses.

Watch position adopted by unanimous consent.

AB 788 – Ms. Blair reported that provisions related to higher education were removed. Committee Chair Welinsky asked if any committee members opposed removing the position of Watch and removing the bill from tracking. There being no objection, the bill was removed by unanimous consent.

SB 511 – Ms. Blair reported that provisions related to higher education were removed. Committee Chair Welinsky asked if committee members opposed removing the position of Watch and removing the bill from tracking. There being no objection, the bill was removed by unanimous consent.

SB 599 – Commissioner Singh moved, Commission Chair Perez seconded, to adopt a position of support. The motion carried unanimously.

AB 1455 – Watch position adopted by unanimous consent.

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AB 35 – Commission Chair Perez moved, Commissioner Lopez seconded, to change the position of Watch to Support. The motion carried unanimously.

AB 36 – Watch position adopted by unanimous consent.

California State Budget

Budget policy coordinator Kevin Woolfork presented an update on the Governor's May Revision to the 2009–10 state budget.

Mr. Woolfork reported that the proposals total \$9 billion in budget cuts, with \$5.5 billion from K-12 and higher education. Federal stimulus funds could offset about \$1 billion in cuts to higher education. The Governor has made some controversial proposals to cut funding and generate revenue. The proposals may pose long-term challenges for lawmakers, particularly contingency proposals that would be implemented should the initiatives on the May 19 election fail.

Commissioner Geraty asked how likely it was the initiatives would pass. Mr. Woolfork said polls predicted low voter turnout with 55% to 60% of voters saying they opposed the propositions.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Committee Chair Welinsky adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.